

Unit 3. Lower Nushagak River Corridor, Ekwok Vicinity

Background

Land Status. Most of the land is owned or selected by Ekwok Ltd. No uplands are owned by the state in the unit. The Nushagak River is navigable; the state owns the tidelands and shorelands in this unit. Eleven Native allotments are located in the unit. No mining claims are located in the unit.

Miles of River. The main channel of the Nushagak River extends for 30 miles.

Access. The corridor is easily accessible by motorboat, float plane, and snowmobile. The unit is located near a major airport in Dillingham and a developed public airstrip exists in Ekwok. The river is important for use as a corridor for boat travel between Dillingham and upriver villages.

Existing Development. The unit contains the village of Ekwok, five cabins used seasonally, and the Ekwok Lodge, a sport fishing lodge.

Fisheries. The lower Nushagak River is a major salmon migration route, as well as an important king and chum salmon spawning habitat.

Subsistence fishing use is high, particularly near Ekwok. Sport fishing use is moderate in the downstream portion of this unit and low in the upstream portion. Most of the sport fishing use is guided and targets king and silver salmon. Most commercial use originates from the Ekwok Lodge or fly-in users.

Wildlife. Moose density is moderate; caribou density is low.

Subsistence hunting for moose is high; the unit is an important hunting area for local residents. Subsistence hunting for caribou is low. Little sport hunting use takes place in the unit because of private land ownership.

Trails and Easements. The following 17(b) easements are located in this unit: EIN 9, 9a, 10, 10a, 11, 11a, 37, and 37a. (Refer to the maps in the envelope in the back of this document for descriptions of these easements.)

Other Values. Scenic values are low because of constricted views and low landscape diversity. Floating use is low. The corridor is important for local trapping and wood-cutting uses. Seven cultural sites are documented in the unit.

Management Intent

Semi-developed use experience.

Management Guidelines

Long-term Use (longer than 14 consecutive days at one site)

Permanent facilities	Prohibited.*
Temporary facilities	Prohibited.*
Trapping cabins	Prohibited.*
Boat storage	May be allowed (case-by-case).
Airstrip development	May be allowed (case-by-case).
Docks: permanent	May be allowed (case-by-case).
temporary	May be allowed (case-by-case).
Other uses	May be allowed (case-by-case).

* The state owns only shorelands in this unit. Permanent facilities and temporary facilities (except for floating facilities) and trapping cabins are prohibited on shorelands.

Short-term Use (14 consecutive days or less at one site)

See Short-term Uses (generally allowed uses) in Chapter 2.

Other Guidelines Specific to this Unit

- U3.1 Short-term Uses at the Mouth of the Kokwok River (Public Use Site 9). Because of high public use, this public use site is designated as a "special use area" under 11 AAC 96.010. In public use sites, short-term uses can take place for 14 consecutive days or less without a permit. In this special use area, allowed short-term uses can take place for 7 consecutive days or less without a permit. Allowed uses that take place for longer than 7 consecutive days are considered long-term uses and require a permit or lease. All other public use site guidelines apply to this special use area (see Chapter 2, Public Use Sites).

Public Use Sites

See Public Use Sites in Chapter 2 for management guidelines. Specific locations of sites are shown on maps in Appendix C.

- Site 9 This site is a special use area. See "Other Guidelines Specific to this Unit." Campsite and floatplane landing area on shorelands on the Nushagak River

at the mouth of the Kokwok River. The state owns only the shorelands in this public use site. Uplands are owned by Ekwok Natives Ltd.

Recommendations for this Unit

None.